



Prez Sez

.....Randy VA3OJ

Hello all,

It was just a year ago that our hobby came under attack from the Ontario provincial government in the form of Bill 118 (Ontario's Bill 118, Countering Distracted Driving and Promoting Green Transportation Act, 2008). I know that I felt we were unjustly painted with a brush that seems to put radio amateurs from many regions on an uneven playing field. The provinces of Canada seem to have a separate identity in the eye of their respective provincial governments. The last time I talked with an amateur in the province of Manitoba, I asked him a question. The answer will amaze you. I asked him if he still put his pants on one leg at a time. His reply was yes. He walks like a VE/VA ham, he talks like a VE/VA ham and he is a Canadian citizen with a Canadian call sign. Yet he is different in a way that defies logic.

2013 is the date that this bill will change the way we do business in our hobby. We have the opportunity to change the way this bill will affect us. As communicators, we have a voice that needs to be heard and heard very clearly. We are not using cell phones, for which this bill was meant. We play a vital role in emergency situations that require us to be trained to respond to the needs of others. We are licensed by the Federal Government. We serve the community. We are not a utility that you pay a monthly, monetary bill for a service. Our volunteer services are offered without remuneration, and usually paid for with a smile and a thank you. I just wish the people that are elected to represent us and we pay to be our voice in the Ontario parliament had ears to listen to the voice of reason.

I don't understand how one province can have a law against the use of radios while the others do not. I do understand that each province is responsible for its own provincial laws. What really amazes me is that a ham from Manitoba or Minnesota can use the radios that they have in their cars on the highways in their respective province or state. Yet the minute they cross

the border into Ontario, they suddenly become irresponsible drivers and need to have their radio gear set up to be used hands free. The other take is that Ontario hams suddenly become responsible drivers as soon as we cross into their areas.

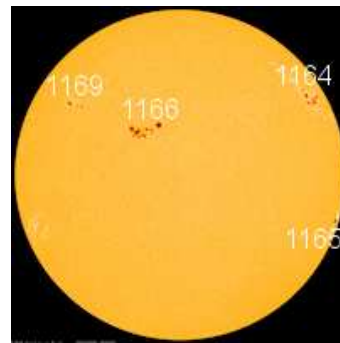
I think it is time for the amateurs to speak up and be proud of how we treat others in our communities. We need to get laws passed that make a difference instead of knee jerk reactions to get votes.

Does anyone agree ?????

Solar Conditions Improving

From the Belgium Observatory

The Sun is showing a lot of activity. There are 5 NOAA active



regions numbered on the solar disk, of which 3 have a beta-gamma-delta configuration. These regions (11164, 11165 and 11166 - Catania 18, 19 and 22) together produced seven M flares yesterday and three others today. The biggest flare (M5.3) of the last days occurred this morning around 10h44 in AR11165.

A proton event is ongoing, originating from a long duration M3.7 flare that occurred yesterday evening in AR 11164 around 20h01. The CME associated with this event was seen in SOHO/LASCO and STEREO-B/COR2 (gap in STEREO-A data). Another CME was observed with LASCO and STEREO around 14h48 yesterday, linked to the M1.7 flare at 14h. Neither of these CME's is directed straight towards Earth, but it is possible the Earth will receive a glancing blow around March 10th. A third eruption was observed by PROBA2/SWAP this morning around 3h45, originating from the unnumbered region in the south-east. There are no LASCO data available just after the event, but it can later on be seen in the C2 images.

We can look forward to more flaring activity from the Sun in the coming hours. Geomagnetic conditions are expected to remain quiet.

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 Laurie Bridgett VE3BCD
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ABOUT US

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club (LARC) is an incorporated not for profit group of amateur radio operators in the Thunder Bay area that meet for self education, community service and fellowship. Our meetings are the second Thursday of the month at room 191 McIntyre Building, Confederation College, 7:30 PM. Our postal address is 1100C Memorial Ave. Suite 184, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 4A3. This newsletter is published monthly except for July and August by Ed Baumann VE3SNW and questions and submissions may be emailed to ve3snw@shaw.ca



Find us on
Facebook

LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS

VE3YQT(Mount Baldy)147.060 (-600) Phone Patch

VE3TBR (St. Joseph's) 146.820 pl 107.2

442.075 (+5 MHz) **pl 100**

144.390 APRS

VE3UPP Upsala 145.470 (-600)

North East Ontario Regional Directors Report for March, 2011

The monthly meeting of the Regional Directors was held on February 24, 2011 starting at 2330Z. The main item discussed was implementing changes to the membership categories. The two main categories will be Full Membership and Associate



Membership. Within each class there will be sub-groups for various levels of support. The one new class of Full Membership I would like to highlight is "Maple Leaf". This allows a licensed Amateur to show their support for RAC by opting for a \$100 membership and in turn they will get special recognition and a small token of appreciation. If you think you may be able to support RAC at that level please give Chris a call at RAC Headquarters for more information. The toll free number is

1-877-273-8304

The first issue of the electronic "RAC Report" has been emailed to all members; if you have not received a copy please let me know. If you have, let me know what you think.

As you all know Amateurs in Ontario have an exemption under the Distracted Driving Legislation, until January 1, 2013. With an election looming now is the time for all Amateurs in the Province to push for a complete exemption to this legislation. Based on experiences in other provinces we need to have letters of recommendation from outside organizations and individuals that we provide services to. This would include groups that sponsor community events of all types. If you are involved with your community's Emergency Preparedness group a letter from them would be wonderful. It would be especially beneficial if they can mention that we support their group while operating from our mobiles. **We need to come across as trained, professional communicators providing a service to our communities.**

While I won't discourage individual letters or petitions from Amateurs, I believe they will have the least benefit. We must convince the legislators that we provide a valuable service to many organizations and that without our services their events may not occur. If you want to contact the Minister a letter has more impact than an email.

Your letters of support should be addressed to Kathleen Wynn the Minister of Transportation for Ontario, her contact information is:

Honourable Kathleen O. Wynn Don Valley West
Ministry of Transportation
3rd Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Z8

Also remember to send a copy of any correspondence to your local MPP's, Premier Dalton McGuinty and me as well. If you have any questions or concerns please email me at ve3xt@rac.ca.

Bill VE3XT, North East Ontario Regional Director

Sleeping Giant Loppet

Loppet, race, tour, the cross country ski event at Sleeping Giant Provincial Park has had many name changes over years, but our participation has stayed steady. Many thanks to our volunteers - Glen Wallace VE3ICY, Mark Vaillant VA3MVR, Bob Hansen VE3RVA, Fred Lesnick VE3FAL, Matthew Lesnick, Karl Hamilton VE3RRP, Randy Gottfred VA3OJ, Bill Unger VE3XT, Maureen Meredith VA3MOB, Chris Chadwick VA3TBA, Rob VanWyck VE3FLB, Bettina Siebenmann, Mike Nawrocki VE3ZG, Linda Bell VE3XLB, Marion Nawrocki VE3MJN, Norm VE3XRC, Ed Baumann VE3SNW, and Terry Stewardson VA3LU. Special thanks to Norm for coordinating and organizing our participation. Kudos to those at the checkpoints as the organizers made our job particularly difficult by assigning bib numbers at random so there was no system to the competitor numbering.



Marion VE3MJN and Linda VE3XLB



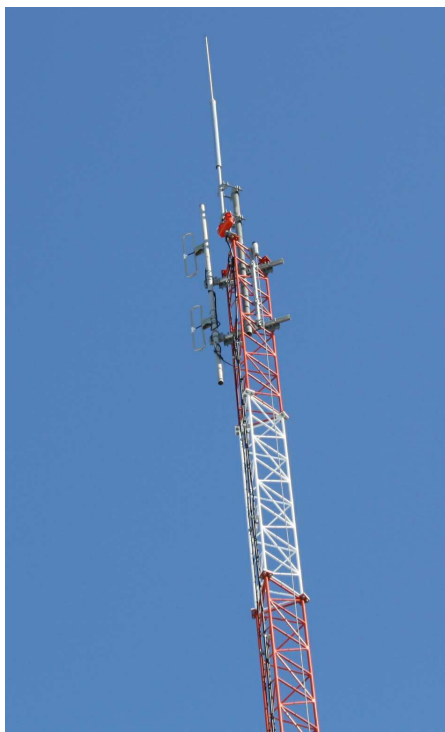
Terry VA3LU enjoying a quiet moment at net control



Net Control ?



Chris VA3TBA visiting net control after his checkpoint shut down



Our antenna at net control...the two bay array below the top antenna

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

Treasurer's Report

Balance on Hand - February 3rd, 2011 **\$4,761.42**

Income

Interest	\$0.62
50/50 Draws	\$7.00
Memberships	\$35.00

Total Income **\$42.62**

Expenses

Thunder Bay Telephone	\$48.53
Bank Charges	\$0.00
Mail Box rental (for 2 years)	\$274.95
Ten Metre Radio (Used)	\$66.46

Total Expenses **\$389.94**

***Term Account (For Higher Interest) \$3,000.00**

Balance on Hand - March 3, 2011 **\$4,414.10**

Trailer Account	
	Previous Balance
	\$1,157.21
Income	
Interest	\$0.10
Expenses	\$0.00
Balance in Trailer Account	
\$1,157.31	

Joe Coghlan - VE3 TBX

Treasurer

March 2011

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5 Sleeping Giant Ski Loppet	6
7	8	9	10 LARC Meeting	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 2331 UTC Vernal Equinox
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			